



Short Story Contest

Tails of Hope is a compilation of short stories featuring the work of 25 budding artists ranging from 5 to 12 years old. Children were asked to write a story about their furry friend and use their imagination to bring it to life. Tails of Hope demonstrates the love and appreciation that children have for animals of all shapes and sizes.

The Tails of Hope Initiative allows children to share relatable stories, helping to build awareness of their emotions, confidence, and communication skills.

Children are our next leaders, and as educators and professionals in the field, it is our goal to cultivate them to be kind, confident, and empathetic to animals of all kinds.

Special thanks to Pickering Animal Services, Pickering Public Library, and to HiFive Kids Dental & Braces for contributing to the success of the initiative.



Lily

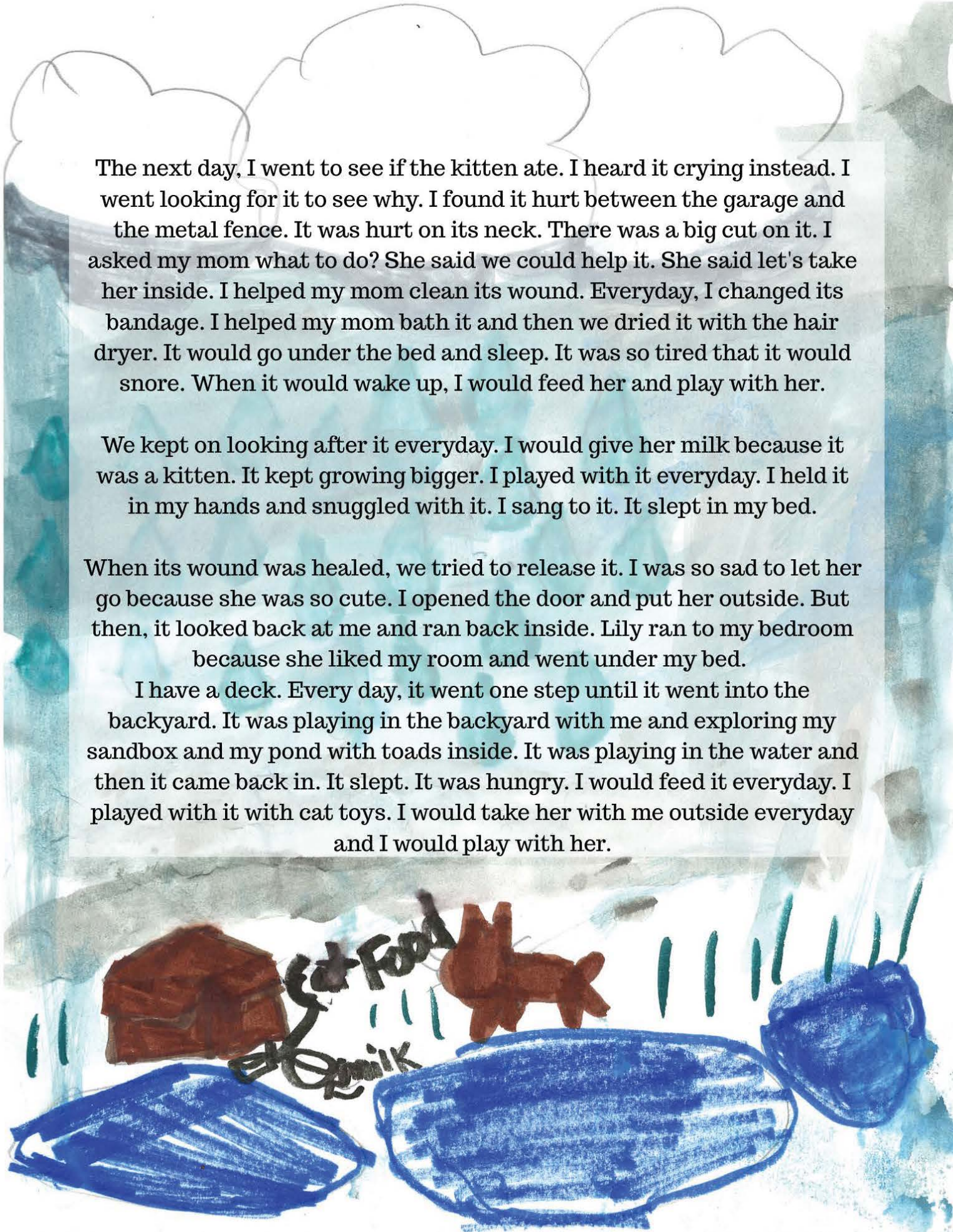
THE RESCUED CAT



Dedicated to all the cats in my family: Buri, Lily & Jasmine, Fluffs, Duncan & Rosie. Thank you for being our family members.

On Wednesday, it was raining. I went out to cover my sandbox and I saw a fuzzy brown ball. I looked closely and saw it was a kitten. I tried to comfort it but it didn't come. I got a box and put a blanket in it and left. I took some of my cousin's cat food and toys. I tried to feed the kitten and play with it but it was too scared. I left hoping it would eat and then find its family.





The next day, I went to see if the kitten ate. I heard it crying instead. I went looking for it to see why. I found it hurt between the garage and the metal fence. It was hurt on its neck. There was a big cut on it. I asked my mom what to do? She said we could help it. She said let's take her inside. I helped my mom clean its wound. Everyday, I changed its bandage. I helped my mom bath it and then we dried it with the hair dryer. It would go under the bed and sleep. It was so tired that it would snore. When it would wake up, I would feed her and play with her.

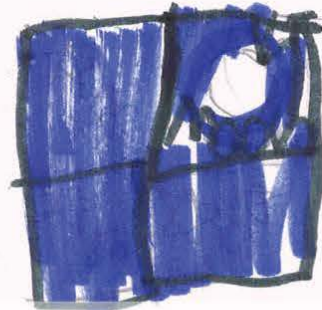
We kept on looking after it everyday. I would give her milk because it was a kitten. It kept growing bigger. I played with it everyday. I held it in my hands and snuggled with it. I sang to it. It slept in my bed.

When its wound was healed, we tried to release it. I was so sad to let her go because she was so cute. I opened the door and put her outside. But then, it looked back at me and ran back inside. Lily ran to my bedroom because she liked my room and went under my bed.

I have a deck. Every day, it went one step until it went into the backyard. It was playing in the backyard with me and exploring my sandbox and my pond with toads inside. It was playing in the water and then it came back in. It slept. It was hungry. I would feed it everyday. I played with it with cat toys. I would take her with me outside everyday and I would play with her.



I named it Lily because I like the pond that has water lilies in it. Once a week, I would take Lily to Lily Pond and we would play. Lily would play a few steps in the water . I would build sandcastles with the sand and I would dig holes in the sand. Lily would help me dig holes so deep that the water from Lily Pond would come up from the bottom of the hole. She liked going inside because she was not too big. She was small and would fit in the hole. She liked to sit in the water because it was summer and it was so hot.



She did not want to leave us. She has been my cat for so many years now. During the day, at nap times, Lily would go under my bed and nap there. But then at night, she would sleep next to me on my bed. I am so glad I found her and rescued her. And that she did not go when I opened the door. I am happy that she stayed with me and I still have Lily until now!



My name is Humayraa Pathan. I am 7 years old. I love cats. My mom rescued our kitten from our backyard in a storm. She was hurt and lost behind our garage. She is 10 years old this year!

